

Damien Flood / History of the Visitation / Press Release

Green On Red Gallery presents its second solo show of new works by Damien Flood. Again the exhibition is marked by a new publication, Spectral Gallery. This time the book forms part of the exhibition, per se, as well as expanding on the neighbouring works fictionally and critically. All works are moderate in scale, some book-size.

Since Counter Earth in 2009 in Green On Red Gallery, Flood's practice has evolved in rich and fascinating ways. He continues to push and exploit the potential of his primary medium, oil on canvas, with intriguing results. His world is expanding in alien directions, apparently devoid of natural light or sometimes about that light. Equally it is unashamedly and indulgently caught between, on the one hand, an abandon born of an abstract use of his medium and, on the other, maintaining one limb in the "real" world. The boundary between "real" and fictional, however, is no longer meaningful in Flood's vocabulary.

Never one to stay in one place for too long, he has for The History of the Visitation, produced a corpus of paintings and objects that is as diverse, unpredictable and open as ever. No one overriding theme emerges. Flood's world or New Geography is, at times, microscopic in its focus but in spite of or even because of this can very quickly lead us to an imaginary vast expanse. All is never as it seems or straightforward or even stationary in Flood's work. In Dot Dot Dot and Rock and Cylinder, for example, one painting supplants another in a reversal of strategy or is it a doubling up of narratives. No one reading is possible or, if you go by previous belief systems and bodies of knowledge, like the one quoted by the artist : the world according to the now discredited 17th Century theoretician and cleric Athanasius Kirchner, desirable. As Flood tells us :

Some areas of this new place appear pulled apart - mountains sit on an examination bench as though a scientist has been hungrily excavating in search of hidden answers. Meanwhile traces of other explorers are suggested by the 'Galilean Eye' peering as new plant life emerges from the barren ground. Water forms structural pillars and rocky mountains melt into a microscopic pool. Not all is as it appears and more questions surround how we see the world through the reading of paint.

Complicating and richly embellishing these paintings is the artist's use of sharply drawn line or outline that pulls the inchoate shapes and forms together with mastery and mystery. Multiple styles and techniques jostle for primacy in Flood's artistic language so that the viewer is regularly surprised and constantly engaged and expectant.

The next exhibition at the gallery is a group gallery artist exhibition of new work opening on December 15, from 6 – 8pm, and continuing until 21 Jan 2012. For further information please contact Jerome O Drisceoil or Mary Caffrey at T: 00353 16743414 or E: info@greenonredgallery.com